

Second-Round Notes – Friday, July 15, 2022

Course Setup: Panther Creek Country Club (Par 71 / 7,228 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Austin Eckroat	65-63—128 (-14)
2	Patrick Newcomb	65-64—129 (-13)
3	Michael Kim	61-69—130 (-12)
T4	Cole Hammer	68-63—131 (-11)
	Quade Cummins	63-68—131 (-11)

Quick Links

- [Complete Leaderboard](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
- [Tournament Media Site](#) (interviews and other resources available for download)

Austin Eckroat takes 36-hole lead at Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – For the first time in his young professional career, Austin Eckroat sits alone atop the leaderboard as he claimed the outright 36-hole lead at the Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS. Eckroat carded an 8-under 63 Friday, setting a new career-low round that brought him to 14-under for the week, giving him a one-shot lead over of Patrick Newcomb entering Saturday’s third round. Newcomb sits alone in solo second at 13-under, followed by Michael Kim in solo third at 12-under.

Eckroat’s second round started on the front nine at Panther Creek Country Club, where he carded two birdies at Nos. 1 and 6, making the turn at 2-under par. The 23-year-old picked up steam on the back as he played the final eight holes at 6-under par, including four consecutive birdies on Nos. 11-14.

“Pretty much everything's going good. I wouldn't say I'm doing anything spectacular,” Eckroat said. “Just kind of driving it good, hitting the irons and wedges good, and getting up and down and making putts. I haven't been making bombs or anything. It's just normal golf but it's going well.”

Through 36 holes played, Eckroat has carded just two bogeys and is tied for the most total birdies this week with 15 (14 birdies, one eagle). This marks the first lead of any kind on the Korn Ferry Tour for Eckroat, who is making his 13th career start.

With the career-low 63 Friday, Eckroat has now carded 26 consecutive rounds of par-or-better, dating back to the NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank in May.

“I had no idea it was 25 in-a-row until the post yesterday,” said Eckroat. “It's just been solid and the game's good so it's just been knocking at the door trying to get a great week. I had a bunch of good weeks but playing for the great one.”

Despite the recent hot streak, Eckroat entered this season with conditional status after a T50 finish in the Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, also known as Q-School Finals. He played in only two of the first twelve Korn Ferry Tour events this season – both resulting in missed cuts – but since then, he's played in seven events and made the cut each week. His impressive play is highlighted by six top-25 finishes, including his best finish of the season, a T15 at Live and Work in Maine Open.

With only three tournaments remaining in the regular season after this week, Eckroat is playing his best golf at the right time. He came to Springfield ranked 84th on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and is well aware of how impactful a win would be.

“Our focus has been kind of just try to get to the top 75 to get into the Korn Ferry Tour Finals,” said Eckroat. “With a win this week, I think I'd move up to 21st. I just checked it and that would put me into the running for the top 25. So if things go to plan this week, then the focus will be that.”

Eckroat turned professional in 2021 after playing four seasons at Oklahoma State University, where he was a four-time All-America honoree and helped the Cowboys win the 2018 NCAA Championship, playing alongside PGA TOUR winner Viktor Hovland. Eckroat finished No. 3 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global Class of 2021 and went on to make three Korn Ferry Tour starts last season, highlighted by two top-25s, including a solo seventh at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX in his Korn Ferry Tour debut.

Third-round pairings will run from 6:30 a.m. through 1:10 p.m. local time off the first tee.

Second-Round Notes

- The 36-hole cut was made at 5-under with 81 players making it to the weekend
- **Patrick Newcomb** (2nd / -13) shot a 7-under 64 Friday, tying his career low round which he achieved twice previously, most recently in the opening round of the REX Hospital Open last month; his 13-under 129 through two rounds this week also set a new career low 36
- **Michael Kim** (3rd / -12), who held the outright 18-hole lead after an opening 10-under 61, carded a 2-under 69 Friday; he sits inside the top-10 after 36 holes for the third time this season, including the second time in as many events
- **Cole Hammer** (T4 / -11) is making his third start of the Korn Ferry Tour this season and sits inside the top-10 for the first time; Hammer claimed the No. 5 ranking in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022; his 8-under 63 Friday tied for the round of the day and marked a new career low round
- **Quade Cummins** (T4 / -11) is in his 15th start of his Korn Ferry Tour rookie season; with opening rounds of 63 and 68, he sits inside the top-10 after 36 holes for the fourth time this season
- Four of the eight players who Monday qualified this week made the cut: **Ryan Hall** (T37 / -7), **Matt Sharpstone** (T37 / -7), **Angus Flanagan** (T63 / -5) and **Luke Gannon** (T63 / -7)
- **Paul Haley II** (T6 / -10), who is ranked 14th on the Korn Ferry Tour regular season Points List, needs to finish solo-14th, 3-way T13 or higher to surpass the 875-point mark the Korn Ferry Tour is using as its fail-safe threshold to reach #TOURBound status
- The Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS is the 20th of 23 regular season events on the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule; the first set of 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded at the

regular season finale, the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14), and an additional 25 TOUR cards will be awarded following the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals, which conclude with the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (September 1-4)

- This week's purse is \$750,000, with \$135,000 going to the champion; the champion will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points
 - All 2022 Korn Ferry Tour regular season events feature a minimum purse of \$750,000, a 25 percent increase from last season, and will boast minimum purses of \$1 million in 2023 for a [total increase of 66.7 percent](#) from 2021 to 2022

Second-Round Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total – Par 71): 69.019 [-1.981]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 35): 34.703 [-0.297]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 36): 34.316 [-1.684]
- Toughest Hole: No. 17, Par 3, 233 yards – 3.181 [+0.181]
- Easiest Hole: No. 16, Par 5, 494 yards – 4.271 [-0.729]